

THE ENGLISH NEWS MAGAZINE OF THE
DIOCESE OF TAIWAN

BISHOP'S LETTER



A very important event this past summer was the 78th General Convention of the Episcopal Church in Salt Lake City, Utah. My first General Convention as Bishop of Taiwan was in 2003, the 74th General Convention. At all the General Conventions I have been

to, one of the main topics of discussion has been same-sex blessings and same-sex marriage. At this most recent General Convention, the resolution was passed to approve same-sex marriage.

In September last year, the Fall House of Bishops was held in Taiwan. The bishops and spouses came to Taiwan as part of our celebrations to mark the 60th anniversary

of the Taiwan Episcopal Church. They learned and experienced for themselves what the Taiwan Episcopal Church has done in mission, ministry and social service through trusting in God and



SEPT 21, 2015: ORDINATION TO PRIESTHOOD OF REV. TSAI CHING-YI 蔡靜儀 (LEFT) & REV. WU SHING-SHIANG 吳興祥 (RIGHT), AND APPOINTMENT OF DIOCESAN CHANCELLOR HERBERT MA (CENTER RIGHT, WITH HIS WIFE, MRS. ALINE MA CENTER LEFT) AS CANON CHANCELLOR

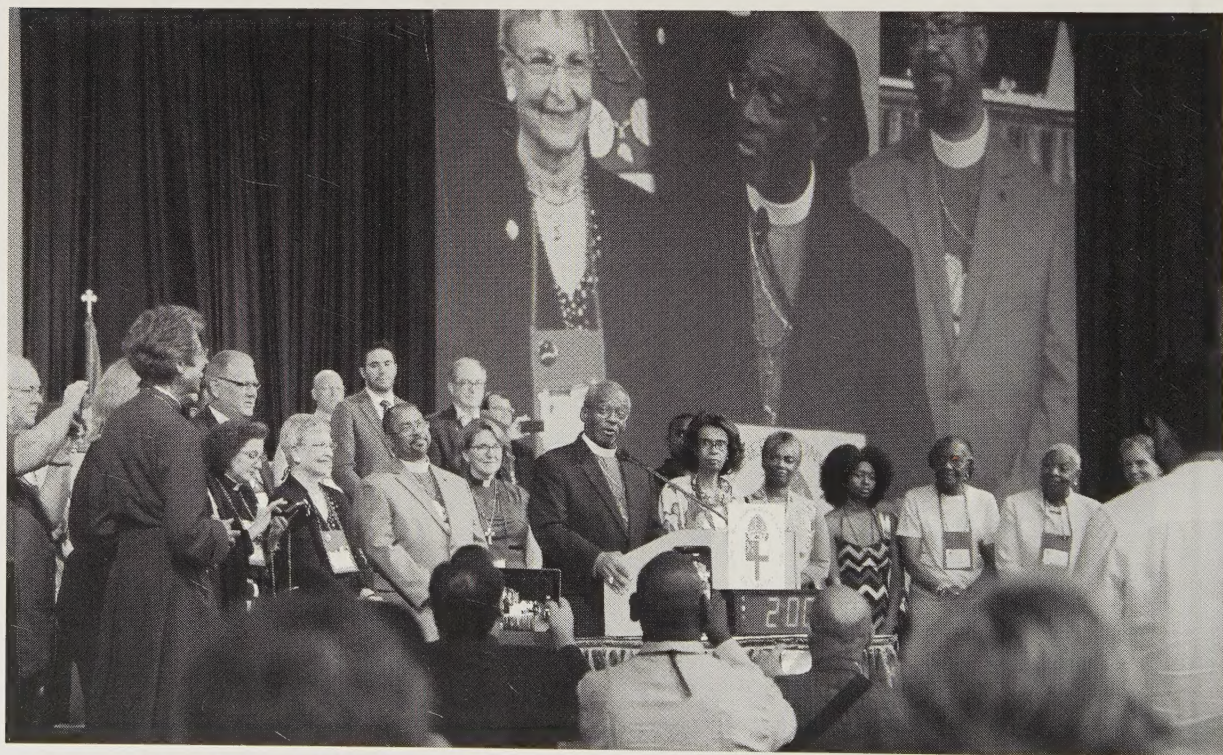
through the guidance of the Holy Spirit. They learned deeply about Taiwan society and culture, saw many of our famous landmarks and beautiful scenery and they got to know our church members and clergy.

Because of this experience, many of the bishops at the General Convention in Salt Lake City were interested to ask about Asia, and especially Taiwan, in relation to the discussion and resolutions on same-sex marriage. I had a good opportunity to share with them, and when I came home from the General Convention, I shared with the Diocese of Taiwan my thoughts and feelings in a letter to the diocese. I wrote about the history of the same-sex marriage discussions and resolutions starting with my first General Convention in 2003, when I had the chance to speak to the House about the position of the Diocese of Taiwan. My position is still the same now.

In the Diocese of Taiwan, our definition of marriage is of one man and one woman, taking a vow together to love each other and to be faithful to each other for the rest of their lives. Through marriage, through children, God's creation is continued to the next generation. We are committed to supporting and protecting the sanctity of marriage, and the Christian family.

The US Supreme Court's decision to legalize same-sex marriage throughout the USA and its territories came on June 26, 2015, right at the beginning of the 78th General Convention. Same-sex marriage is not yet legal in Taiwan. If one day it becomes law, then maybe we might consider this matter. For the time being, we will continue to insist on the Biblical teaching of marriage of one man and one woman, and the wedding sacrament as according to the Book of Common Prayer.

I strongly encourage our clergy and church members to love and care for all gay people in their churches and communities. God loves them, and they have God's blessing, we should not try to change them. They have more pressure from society, even from friends and family, and we need to appreciate their service and passion in ministry, and their offering of themselves to the church. If they have children, we need to welcome them and offer baptism in the same way as any other family. I pray that God will enable us all to have a good and beautiful witness, and to lead people to trust and love God, and bring glory to the Lord!



GENERAL CONVENTION: PRESIDING BISHOP KATHARINE JEFFERTS SCHORI (LEFT) AND PRESIDING BISHOP ELECT MICHAEL CURRY (CENTER)

The 78th General Convention

Diocese of Taiwan delegate: Winston C. Y. Yu

BISHOP LAI AND THE DIOCESE OF TAIWAN DELEGATION (PLUS REV. HERBERT BARKER) AT GENERAL CONVENTION



The 78th General Convention of the Episcopal Church was held in Salt Lake City, Utah, U.S.A. from June 25 to July 3, 2015. The Taiwan delegation, led by Bishop Lai, comprised five deputy members (numbered left to right in the above photo): Rev. Leo Wen-Bin Tzeng (7) of All Saints' Church, Kangshan, Kaohsiung; Richard Pao-Shen Hu (3) of Good Shepherd Church, Shilin, Taipei; Mrs. Pai-Hui Hsu (1) of St. Timothy Church, Kaohsiung; and Marjorie Ying-Yu Kuo (5) and Winston Chung-Yuan Yu (6) of St. John's Cathedral, Taipei. Pai-Hui is the chair of the diocesan ECW (Episcopal Church Women) so she was also the Taiwan diocese representative who attended the UTO (United Thanksgiving Offering) Ingathering Ceremony.

This year, there were 868 deputies attending the Convention that represented 110 dioceses from 17 countries and 2 districts. National flags and emblems were posted as the backdrop to the stage set throughout the convention (see top photo on page 4). This special arrangement provided us, the overseas deputies, with a heart-felt and warm welcome every time we walked into the convention hall. The 2015 General Convention was productive with hundreds of legislative resolutions filed at adjournment on issues including structural reorganization, mission statement updates, the budget for the 2016-2018 triennium, same-sex marriage, action in response to social injustice, gun control, etc., and of course the election of Presiding Bishop. A sum-

mary of the General Convention's actions can be viewed online at <http://houseofdeputies.org>

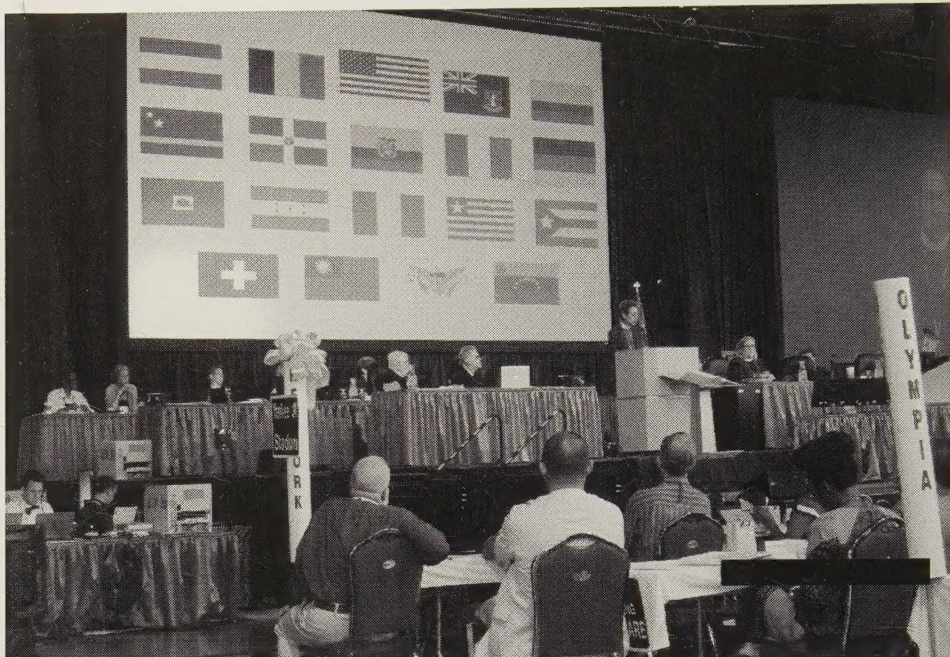
'Episcopal Church Elects Its First Black Presiding Bishop' was the headline in the New York Times on June 27, which was the day after the 2015 General Convention elected Bishop Michael Curry, Bishop of North Carolina, as the 28th Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church. Bishop Curry will succeed Bishop Katherine Jefferts Schori, who will complete her nine-year term on November 1. She is the first female presiding bishop and the first woman to lead an Anglican national church. Bishop Curry becomes the first black presiding bishop in the leadership position of a congregation that is over three quarters Caucasians which tells us a lot about our Episcopal Church. Not only is it in the front line of all social movements, but also is taking a leading role in promoting all aspects of social justice. Bishop Curry was one of the four candidates who were considered for the position and he won a landslide victory with 121 votes. All three of the other candidates had 21 votes or less, with the House of Deputies voting of 800 to 12 to affirm the decision. Rev. Tzeng, Marjorie and I had a picture taken with Bishop Curry soon after election in front of the Taiwan table (see bottom photo, page 4).

The House of Deputies at the 78th General Convention consisted of 868 deputies, of whom one third were between the ages of 56 and 65, while 28% were 65 or older; this demographic distribution seems to indicate a significant number of more sen-

ior people participating. However, their ages did not affect how the deputies acted at all; this group of people had plenty of energy and went round throughout the meeting attending conventions, legislative hearings and subcommittee meetings that were scattered across a daily schedule that lasted from 7:30 am to 9:30 pm. Moreover, the vigor they exerted in delivering opinions on issues and making points during debates in order to convince people from the oppo-

site camp, as well as the forward thinking they expressed and stressed in all their decision-making, was impressive. Marjorie and I were first time deputies and in reality 46% of the deputies were serving for the first time. Nevertheless, everyone seemed to know what he or she was doing. If Marjorie and I had not studied all agendas before going to the meeting, we would have quickly become lost in all the discussions and meetings from day one. Studying all the committee reports beforehand and attending the appropriate orientations and hearings is almost a must for any first time deputy who attends a convention of this intensity.

This year's convention was also conducted with a green agenda that involved both saving trees and using technology. Each deputy was issued with an iPad on check-in. You were able to find all the legislative bills even when there were on-going amend-



PRESIDING BISHOP KATHARINE JEFFERTS-SCHORI ADDRESSES
THE GENERAL CONVENTION

ments in the "Virtual Binder" on the iPad, as well as agendas of all sorts, old and new together with all past records pertinent to decision making. I have heard it is the product of two years of Imagineering, software development, and simulation. It made it easy for us to sail through the various meetings and it even got to the point where one was enjoying the convention. Electronic queuing and voting were also fully utilized during legislative sessions. Unlike on some other occasions, the system did not crash for the entire 12 days. We appreciate the hard work that the people behind this innovation put into it. There were several occasions when small group

discussions on the floor were arranged and then consensual opinions from each group were twittered to the convention secretariat instantaneously for general consideration. I found it exciting trying to generalize different opinions in a very short time. The Dallas diocesan delegates



REV. LEO TZENG, MARJORIE KUO AND WINSTON YU MEET WITH
PRESIDING BISHOP ELECT, MICHAEL CURRY

SHARING TOGETHER: DELEGATES FROM DIOCESE OF TAIWAN (LEFT) AND DIOCESE OF DALLAS (RIGHT)



were seated right next to Taiwan and were our team mates whenever a floor group discussion was called upon (see above photo). We appreciated their help during the discussions and when sending tweets. A special thank you goes to Rev. Canon Victoria Heard of the Diocese of Dallas for her knowledge of the Episcopal canons as well as her background knowledge of all the legislative bills.

The Rev. Lester Mackenzie from the Diocese of Los Angeles served the House of Deputies as Chaplain during the 2015 General Convention. Rev. Mackenzie is the Associate Rector of the Parish of St. Mathew at Pacific Palisades, California, which is the church Marjorie and I always go to whenever we visit Los Angeles. Prayers led by Rev. Mackenzie were given at the beginning of every meeting session, during a heated discussion or whenever the president felt that the situation called for a prayer. His prayers are mostly unconventional; they mixed

visual aids with songs and he sometimes even had all the deputies on our feet dancing to the beat of an African drum. He led us into the song "We Are One Together – Yo Yo Yo" on many occasions including the time when the elected Presiding Bishop Michael Curry first visited the House. Even now I still can recall the excitement and elevated spirit that flowed among the deputies as the words "We Are One Together – Yo Yo Yo" reverberated through the hall.

(photos supplied by the author and Rev. Leo Tzeng)



DIOCESE OF TAIWAN DELEGATES WITH REV. HERBERT BARKER

Rev. Herbert Barker, English Congregation, Good Shepherd Church, Taipei
A Good Shepherd Missioner

"We are missionaries or we are nothing." Archbishop Desmond Tutu

In June, before my summer vacation, I attended the Episcopal Church's General Convention (see photo below). It was my first time to attend our church's General Convention. It was also my first time to take on the title and conscious identification as "missioner".

As the priest-in-charge of the English Congregation of the Church of the Good Shepherd in Taiwan, I am rarely conscious that I am a missionary sent from the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States of America. Therefore, when I walked around the convention center with my nametag, "The Rev. Herbert J. Barker, Missioner to Taiwan", I had to consider, "I am a Missioner"! I recalled that Archbishop Desmond Tutu had declared that all Christians are missionaries or "...*we are nothing*."

As I witnessed and listened to the General Convention's sessions and shared in the interviewing process of candidates for election of our Presiding Bishop, I became aware of the truth and power of Archbishop Tutu's wise reminder that Christians are missionaries.

Missionaries are called and sent to witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ and to share with partners in living out Christ's identification with the poverty of all God's children. We often forget that we all are impoverished. We are the poor in spirit.

We are poor in our deeds of compassion. We are impoverished in our generosity and hospitality to all persons.

For me, the theme of General Convention this summer was the renewing of our sense and commitment to absolute inclusiveness and universal love for all--our fellow pilgrims, our neighbors, wayfarers, and strangers in our courtyards.

The General Convention elected a missionary to the position of Presiding Bishop. Bishop Michael Bruce Curry is first an evangelist, a missionary of the Gospel who is called and sent to a diverse church and to a world of vast diversity. He is called and sent to deliver the message of Christ's healing love.

I rejoice in what I believe was the moving of the Holy Spirit during the General Convention that is evidenced by its choice of a missionary to lead the body of Christ known as the Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States of America.

"We are missionaries or we are nothing."

Archbishop Desmond Tutu



ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL, TAIPEI

Rev. Elizabeth Wei 魏斐然牧師 Rev. Tsai Ching-Yi 蔡靜儀牧師

Ordination Service and Appointment of Diocesan Chancellor Herbert Ma as Canon Chancellor St. Matthew's Day, Monday September 21, 2015

On Monday September 21, 2015, an ordination service was held at St. John's Cathedral for Rev. Tsai Ching-Yi 蔡靜儀 and Rev. Wu Shing-Shiang 吳興祥 (see photo on front cover). Both were ordained priests. Rev. Tsai serves at St. John's Cathedral, and Rev. Wu serves at Advent Church.

At the same service, Prof. Herbert Ma 馬漢寶, our diocesan chancellor, was formally appointed by Bishop Lai as 'Canon Chancellor' (see photos on this page). Professor Ma celebrates his 90th birthday later this year, and in honor and gratitude for his 60 years of service to the diocese as chancellor, he has been appointed Canon Chancellor. He is the first and only person to hold this post in the Diocese of Taiwan. Congratulations Professor Ma!



In the Name of
the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

To all the faithful of Christ Jesus throughout the World, Greeting:

Be it known unto you by these Presents, that we, the Right Reverend
David J. H. Lai, called by the grace of God to be the 7th Bishop of the
Episcopal Diocese of Taiwan, do hereby appoint and induct

Herbert Han-Hao Ma

as Canon Chancellor of the Episcopal Diocese of Taiwan in recognition
of his sixty years of faithful service to our Diocese as Chancellor, and
further for his witness to Jesus Christ. He is entitled to this title of
Canon Chancellor for the remainder of his natural life.

Given under our hand and seal in the Cathedral of St. John, Taipei, on
this the twenty-first day of September, in the year of Our Most Gracious
Lord two thousand and fifteen.



+David J. H. Lai
The Rt. Rev. David J. H. Lai
Bishop of Taiwan

教區法政證書

奉聖父、聖子、聖靈的名

謹以聖公會台灣教區第七任主教之職

在基督裡 委任獻身忠誠愛主侍主

擔任教區法制顧問 六十有年

馬漢寶 教授

為聖公會台灣教區

終身法政法制顧問

假台北聖約翰座堂用印

特頒此證

聖公會台灣教區 主教 賴榮信

主曆二〇一五年九月廿一日

Through the vision of our retired dean, Rev. Michael Liou, and with the support of Bishop Lai and the help and advice of Canon Peter Ng, Asia-Pacific Officer of the Episcopal Church, our cathedral organist, Ms. Joanna Fu Li-Ping 傅麗萍 (see right photo) is spending 3 months (September to November) in the USA at the Church of Our Savior, San Gabriel, California. We are very grateful to the church staff of the Church of Our Savior, Rector Rev. Gary Bradley, the Associate for Asian Ministries, Rev. Ada Wong-Nagata and Organist Philip Smith for their warm welcome and all the arrangements they have made. They have kindly organized regular pipe organ lessons for Joanna, and daily practice sessions on their church pipe organ. Through this experience, Joanna hopes to advance her pipe organ skills in relation to the various Episcopal Church Liturgies. This is part of the Theological Education and Training Program of the Diocese of Taiwan. We thank God for this wonderful opportunity and thank those responsible for helping to make it all happen!

As part of our celebrations for the sixtieth anniversary of St. John's Cathedral, due next year, 2016,

we are having a series of health and medical lectures hosted by the Brotherhood of St. Andrew and E.C.W. On May 31, we invited Dr. Liang-Di

Huang, director of the Taipei Medical University Wan Fang Hospital, to give the first lecture: "Are You Vaccinated?" Quite a few local people also came to join in.

The second lecture was on July 26, when Mr. De-Rong Chen, President of the 'Chinese Traditional Manipulation Club' at Taipei Medical University, came to instruct us on the topic, "A brief talk about acupressure". People who came to the lecture had a good chance to experience this special type of treatment.

We have a community outreach ministry called "Praise Dance" held here at St. John's Cathedral on the second floor of Kennedy House (甘納德樓) every Wednesday morning to enhance the good relationship with the local community.

From July 29 to August 2, some members of the College Fellowship at St. John's Cathedral had a trip to Hong Kong and Macau, visiting Anglican churches and scenic spots.



After the Sunday service on August 9, we held a training course, called "Silver Wisdom of the Senior Fellowship", learning about how to use electronic products, including the smart phone (see left photo).

Advent Church and St. John's University Student Fellowship Overseas Mission Trip Summer 2015

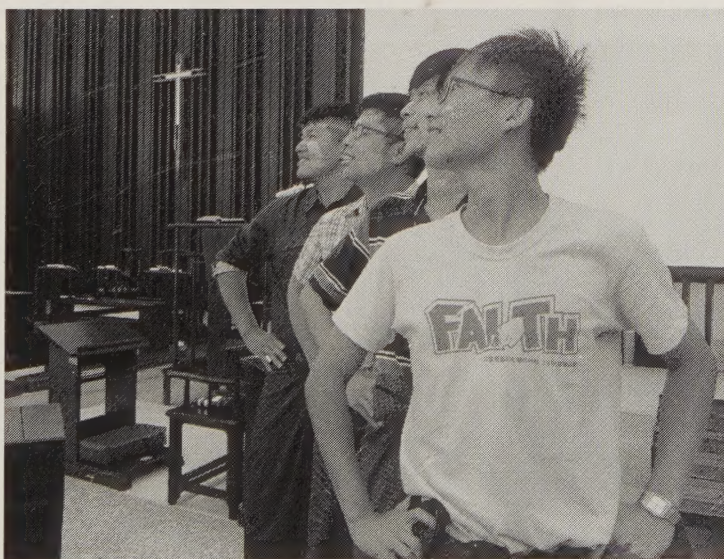


From July 27 to August 5, 2015, a team of 16 from St. John's University Chaplaincy and Advent Church went on an overseas mission trip, led by the Chaplain and Rector Rev. Lennon Chang. They had all participated in a training camp during the winter vacation, and further training just before departure. After the morning service on Sunday August 30, 14 of them gathered at Advent Church to share about their experiences

(see photo above). One of the group, Chia-Lin Wang, whose aunt is a member of Advent Church, is herself actually a member of St. James' English Congregation. Her article about the trip follows this one.

During the sharing time on August 30, each person had 3 minutes to speak, and they shared about the

food, the fruits and vegetables, bathrooms and toilets, transport - the 15-hour bus journey, the trips in the back of open pick-up trucks, accommodation, the cost of living - salaries and cost of basic goods, the extreme poverty, the ministry to the children and youth, home visits, church worship, and everyone's most moving moment and lasting memory. Overall, it was clearly a life-changing experience for everyone.



'HERE I AM, LORD, SEND ME.'
THE STUDENT MISSION TEAM

All were very moved by the faith of the local Christians they met. In a community with few financial resources, prayer and their faith in Christ are clearly what carries everyone through, and the way the churches reach out to the destitute and marginalized in the local community is a wonderful witness. Some of the students commented that here in Taiwan

we have every technological invention available, but there they have nothing, no loud speakers, microphones, computers, not even any basic toys, and in many places no water or electricity either, and yet the children are content, the people get by and the Gospel is preached.

One of the students reflected on his own life and how totally self-absorbed he was as a teenager, focused only on his own life and personal desires, and yet there, the teenagers requested prayer not just for themselves and their school work, but for their parents to find faith and become Christians. Another noticed how resourceful the children were, thinking things out for themselves, finding creative solutions to every problem - not waiting for adults to organize them and explain everything to them, but leading the way themselves.

Rev. Lennon Chang shared about his role on the trip, which was focused on prayer. Every day, he got up at 4:30 am to pray for 2 hours for each member of the team, and then ongoing throughout the day. Spiritual warfare was very much a reality of their daily lives, and without all the prayer, the trip would not have been such a success.

Actually this trip was really organized and made possible through Pastor Francis Shih, whose son is one of the students in our SJU Student Fellowship, and both father and son went on the mission trip. Pastor Shih works for the Taiwan branch of an ecumenical mission organization that was started in the 1990's, the result of a initial vision given to a Chinese pastor who took a moment to sit down and rest

while on a tour inside St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. Although they also work in many local languages, most of those involved on the mission teams are Chinese-speaking, and in our case, the outreach was to a Chinese church and Chinese-speaking community in a country where extreme poverty, political instability and lack of religious freedom are all major factors. Sharing the Gospel is very difficult.

Pastor Shih spoke of the mission team's ministry with the local children and teenagers, and how the team trained the church youth to run an evangelistic outreach night. On the Saturday night they actually held the outreach, led by the church youth for their friends and visitors, while the mission team sat in the pews and saw the fruits of their training put into action. This was a huge encouragement to the local church leaders, to see their own young people stand up and lead worship, perform drama, share their testimonies and run the whole event themselves, they were overjoyed!

The team returned to Taiwan on August 5, and of the 16 who went, 7 of them then got ill after their return. The 2 Advent Church clergy went down with dengue fever and the other 5 went down with similar fevers and stomach problems, but not diagnosed as dengue. Thanks be to God that all have now fully recovered.

All have had their eyes opened and learned so much. Please pray for these young people (young at heart as well as young in age!) for their lives, their faith and their futures.



OVERSEAS MISSION GROUP WITH LOCAL TEENAGERS

'Amazing Grace'

Advent Church and St. John's University Student Fellowship Overseas Mission Trip

Ms. Chia-Lin Wang (王佳琳)



OVERSEAS MISSION GROUP VISITS A LOCAL FAMILY (MS. CHIA-LIN WANG IS SECOND FROM LEFT ON BACK ROW)

When I was a college student, I always dreamed of traveling around the world. I wished that every journey of my traveling would be meaningful; and exploring this beautiful universe through participating as an international volunteer seemed to be a perfect means to realize my dream. However, this blueprint had never been put into practice until this summer. This August, I joined a group of missionaries from Advent Church.

I was so excited that I truly believed that it would be a great opportunity to know this world even deeper. Yet not long after that, I started to wonder: what is a missionary? And what does a missionary do? The dictionary definition is "a person sent to a place to spread a religious faith." As for me, missionaries recall to mind

the stories of Jesus sending disciples carrying neither money bag nor sandals to preach the Kingdom of God and to heal the sick, and also what happened just a couple of years later when the Apostle Paul set out for his first mission journey with all kinds of trials waiting in front of him. With these in mind, it seemed that the duty of a missionary looked nothing like a smooth-going road to take.



I came to realize that this is not a trip for fun, but the Great Commission that God wanted me to fulfill. According to the Bible, Jesus has stated clearly, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with



you always, even to the end of the age.” He has showed me the path I should follow, and he strengthens my faith in being a missionary. As long as we prepare ourselves, He will send us to share and help others see His great love and miracles.

Thousands of pictures of the country flipped through my mind like a quick film before we set off to the destination. I believe that these could be the most common images we have: a nation with temples standing in great numbers, monks being found everywhere, and the majority of people leading hard lives. Yet on top of that, what I witnessed is something of great difference that has renewed my life entirely.

First of all, what struck me with astonishment is that while most people are living under such upset conditions, they own true happiness and hold a positive attitude toward life. We all understand economic inequality as one of the grave circumstances of the country: most houses constructed of bamboo, with roofs built of leaves and without strong foundations; stable electricity being a luxury in their daily life; streets surrounded by garbage giving off unpleasant smells, and dead mice lying beside the pavement. For most of us, this is certainly the last form of life we would ever want to have. However, as mentioned previously, even in such a miserable-looking environment, people there feel satisfied with what they have. Children need no toys, since nature is their best and wonderful playground. Though striv-

ing and struggling to make a living, people always wear a friendly grin on their faces, young and old alike. On the contrary, I think we all know well how those living in a comparatively modern and wealthy society feel about their daily life. Happy? Joyful? Undoubtedly, it should be mostly the reverse instead.

Secondly, they have the strongest faith that I have ever seen. We went to visit the congregation of the local Chinese church. The stories they told concerning what they have been through showed the solid belief they have in Jesus Christ. A pastor’s wife, who is 72 years old, had been diagnosed with colorectal cancer, stage III. Nevertheless, she acted like a vibrant and energetic person who we wouldn’t even have associated with such a grave disease. She said, “I am not afraid of death. I only wish that Jesus Christ can ease my pain. And, I am determined to go on the path of evangelizing my brothers and sisters.”

Ms. Chen is a lady in her early 60’s, and has been suffering from hepatitis for the last five years. She was once too weak to walk; on a five-minute walk to the pastor’s house, she would need to stop three times for a rest. Her children bought medicine for her from another country; however, she didn’t make a single step toward recovery. She and her family felt so helpless that they didn’t know what to do. At that moment, God touched her heart, she decided to throw away all the medicine and turn to God, and

start praying and reading the Bible regularly. And God showed his grace once again. Her health was gradually restored and became as good as how we saw her on that day. Now, Ms. Chen can keep the house well and take good care of her grandchildren! Their stories made me to reflect on a Bible story, when Jesus said to a woman with a flow of blood for twelve years, "Daughter be of good cheer; your faith has made you well. Go in peace." When we have a firm faith in God, we will not stumble so easily.

Last but not least, we loved the young people there so much. We spent most of the time with kids and teenagers. Through different games and activities, they showed their great respect to the elderly and teachers. When people asked them questions, they would think carefully and give you the answers sincerely. Also, each of them own a distinguish characteristic of leadership, and they could all be responsible for their team. Although they grew up in a poor family or an orphanage, people could easily discover that they are innocent, generous, and respectful.

These are all reminding us of God's amazing grace.

In the country we visited, there are over 100 ethnic races, with approximately 80% of the population belonging to Buddhism, the main religion of the country. However, 9% are Christians, which is con-

sidered a stunning fact since in numbers it has a much bigger Christian population than Taiwan does. The religious control there is beyond our imagination. Christians in the country are struggling to gain respect for their right to decide their own religion. They need our attention and prayer.

After the ten-day missionary journey, I realize that a Christian's duty should not just be reading the Holy Bible solely, but putting it into action. We have the love from Jesus Christ, and we ought to spread this love to the end of the world. Let all the nations live in Jesus' love. In the Bible, James 1:22-25 says, "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, He is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does." Growing up in a Christian family for more than twenty years, I finally understand our Great Commission. That is, to spread the seed of love all over the world.

(photos all taken by the author on the mission trip)



Testimony

Mr. Mark Chou Tzu-Yang 周子揚

Tzu-Yang (Mark) is a final year student in the Department of Industrial Engineering at St. John's University, Taiwan, and this year he is also the elected chairperson of the St. John's University Student Fellowship. This is his account of his faith journey.

'My family are followers of Taiwan's traditional religion. We come from Yingge, just outside Taipei, a town famous for its ceramic pottery. There are seven of us at home, my 4 siblings, our parents and myself. My father is a very serious man, and he has always found it very difficult to show us his love. When I was a child, I often got into fights with my brothers and sisters. Each time I made a mistake or got into trouble, my father made me kneel down in front of the family shrine in our home to face the god. As a result, I became very afraid to fail at anything.

One summer, I took part in a children's 3-day Christian camp. The people there always talked about Jesus. They were so nice to me, except for one child who threw a bottle during sleeping time and I got hit in the face. But the leaders showed great concern about my injury, and I had a very warm feeling, warmer than I had ever had before. At the end of the camp, the pastor personally gave me a Bible to take home. But when my father saw me holding the Bible, he was so angry with me and he took the Bible away. I never saw it again. That year on Christmas Eve, the pastor and the church people came to my house to sing and share Christmas greetings with our family, but my father kept them



MARK CHOU TZU-YANG WITH
REV. LENNON CHANG AT HIS BAPTISM

be part of the welcome team and I had to wear a suit. Because I hadn't had anything to do with church since my childhood, I was very nervous, but also very excited. That evening, I met so many people and I made some new friends. As a result I started to join in the student fellowship group. The next summer vacation, we held a summer camp for local children, and it reminded me of my childhood. Why had all those people been so nice to me all

those years ago?



TZU-YANG (LEFT) WITH STUDENT FELLOWSHIP
MEMBERS

away. So since that Christmas I had no more contact with Jesus.

In my first year at St. John's University, I wanted to learn more English so I joined an English conversation group run by the chaplain's office. Most of the other students in the group were members of the student fellowship. One night, they were planning to have an evangelistic outreach evening and they needed some people to help run it. They said they were going to share the Gospel, and they invited me to take part. I said yes! I was assigned to

In looking for the answer, I started to go to church often. People in the university also encouraged me every time I failed at something. They trained me to be a leader, and now I am the leader of the student fellowship. Now I am no longer fearful. I take my first step whenever encountering something difficult. I even went overseas as a volunteer with the university group to India to help in

a church care home and school. Last Christmas I went as a volunteer for a week to a Christian drug rehabilitation center in Thailand to teach Chinese. I

have met different people from so many different countries. Although the people I have met all come from different places, I have figured out something we all have in common. We are all alive in love. There is no fear in love. The love is from Jesus.

So I made up my mind to be baptized. I wanted to become a Christian.

On Easter Eve, April 4, 2015, I was baptized by Rev. Lennon Chang in Advent Church. On that day, the thing that really deeply touched me the most was that my mother and brother also came to attend this special event. And my father was not angry with me, instead he gave his blessing.

This past summer vacation, I took part in the overseas mission trip along with other students from our student fellowship and Advent Church. In fact, we learned more than we gave. The roads were very muddy and sticky and traveling was difficult. Despite all the problems, it didn't cover the passion of preaching Jesus. One day, we were told we were going to visit an old lady with cancer. But when we got there, I was surprised to see an energetic woman who smiled at us to say hello. She did not look like she had been ill for a long time, but she had. She told us she could still walk to church on Sundays, and she was so grateful about that. Because of God, she got strength to live, and she feels she is no longer suffering.

This experience led me to think deeply. Maybe we are richer than the people there, but we do not have strong hearts and faith like those elders. Patience, experience; and experience, hope. How strong we are depends on how much confidence we have in Jesus.



BAPTISM: APRIL 4, 2015

On this mission trip, I also learned their local language; I think language is one of the ways to spread Jesus' love. It is also a key to becoming close to people's hearts. I cannot sing or play any instrument like the others on our mission team, so I learned the local language. I think that is why God guided me to the chaplaincy's English class before I went overseas for volunteering and mission. I have been to many countries and I would like to be a peacemaker in the future. I want to make people happy. I should have more confidence in Jesus first. He will show me the way.

After I came back from the mission trip, I accepted confirmation from Bishop Lai in Advent Church on August 23, 2015. Bishop Lai came to bless me and 3 other people. We had a talk before the service and Bishop Lai told us that as we feel love from God, so we should share that love with people in return.



CONFIRMATION: AUGUST 23, 2015

I have had much to do since I joined the student fellowship and became a Christian. I used to think something like this: I do things for God. So God looks great. So God loves me. But now I have learned that the fact is: God is great. God loves me. So I do things for God. Jesus shows me how much he loves people. So I want to follow him and take his way to love people. I began saying "I LOVE YOU" to my

family. I have found that the relationship between us is changing, because of Jesus.

Thank you God for everything in my life!

ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY, TAMSUI

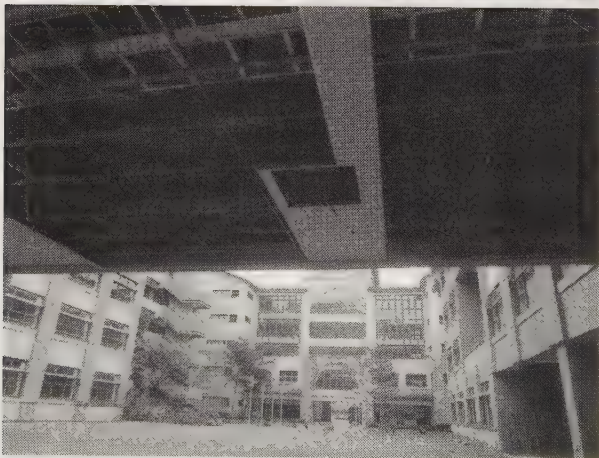
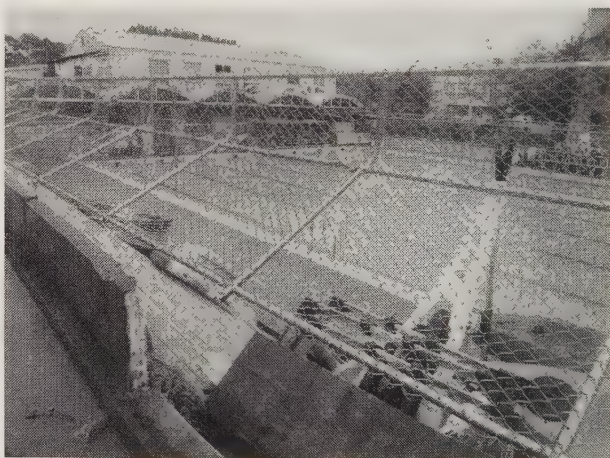
Chaplain: Rev Lennon Chang Yuan-Rung 張員榮牧師

The new school year started on September 14, 2015, with a total of 1,036 new first year students, including 28 from Malaysia, 8 from Hong Kong and 13 from Mainland China, plus many on exchange visits of one semester or year. It also includes 96 who are the first intake for the junior 5-year college section, so they have just graduated from junior-high school, aged 15. We praise God for all these new students. However the overall enrollment continues to fall, and the numbers graduating each year are not being made up by those entering. This is a challenge for many schools all over Taiwan as the birth rate plummets.

The new Advent Church Center is almost completed, awaiting final touches and then we need to apply for a license to be able to use the building. We hope that the new building can be officially opened before the end of the year. A delay over the summer was due partly to a very unfortunate and tragic accident in the new building which resulted in one

of the construction company's temporary workers being critically injured; sadly he died in hospital a few days later. Rev. Lennon Chang held a Memorial and Holy Communion Service in the new building at the site of the accident some weeks later.

Typhoon Soudelor caused widespread damage to the St. John's University Campus over the weekend of August 8-9, 2015 (see photos below). Fortunately no lives were lost and there were no injuries but repairs on the campus will cost approx. US\$ 100,000. Many of the classrooms were flooded, buildings and signs damaged, ceiling boards blow out, trees blown down, and fencing blown over. The wall of the swimming pool and the wire fencing above it was blown down. Please pray for St. John's University and the many challenges we face.



ADVENT CHURCH, TAMSUI

Rev Lennon Chang Yuan-Rung 張員榮牧師 Rev. Wu Shing-Shiang 吳興祥牧師

We are delighted that Rev. Wu Shing-Shiang was ordained priest on Monday September 21 at St. John's Cathedral.

Advent Church Summer Camp for local children was held on July 1-2, led by students from the St. John's University Student Fellowship. 30 students and 60 children took part in the camp, and the theme, following our sequence of the Fruits of the Spirit, this year was 'Faithfulness', based on the story of Peter.

From July 13 to August 20, Monday to Thursday each week, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, Advent Church held the annual 'Small Sun' Summer Classes for elementary school aged children. 24 children attended. Each day there were Bible and character classes, classes in computer and art, and trips out. 2 of the St. John's University Student Fellowship were responsible for the day to day running of the classes.



On Sunday August 23, 4 people were confirmed at Advent Church by Bishop Lai, including 3 present or recently graduated students of St. John's University, and one lady from the local community (see photo above).

A Member Mission Story at Advent Church

The Rev. Peyton Craighill visited Taiwan in June, 2012 and led three workshops about Member Mission, its vision, ideas and strategies in the Episcopal Diocese of Taiwan. After Peyton left, I have been trying to find out if the new missional model can work at our churches in Taiwan. The following is a witness story about Christina Hai, who is a faithful member at the Church of Advent, a vestry member, and a soprano in the church choir. Christina wrote the story in Chinese, and I did the English translation. Andrew C. Chang

Ms. Christina Hai (海小燕)

Home and Family

My family and I live in Tamsui, a town on the outskirts of Taipei, located on the NW coast of Taiwan. Until July 2011, I was working full-time on the staff of St. John's University, Tamsui, while my husband Paul was working full-time in Taipei City (see photo of Christina and Paul on the following page). Our 2 sons were still in fulltime education, but both were grown.

After considerable thought and prayer, I decided to resign my job that summer, to have more time to care for my family. My mother had started dialysis for kidney failure earlier that year. My father was in the early stages of dementia, and my younger brother was also at home and needed care, having been paralyzed in an accident nearly 30 years earlier. Although we had hired someone to care for them, deep in my heart I felt that the family needed me more than anyone else at this time of life, just as much as I had needed them when I was little. Furthermore, I thought that by resigning from my job, I could spend more time helping my husband's aging parents and his sister, who shared a home with us, and none of them were in good health. Ever since then, I have spent most of my time with them, accompanying them in and out of hospital. Whenever they need me, I am always there.

We have shared and prayed together through many difficult times. I have really experienced God's great healing power, His presence and His blessing on us, particularly when I have been at my mother's bedside in the hospital. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts, says the Lord." (Isaiah 55:9)

Community

About 10 miles north of my home in Tamsui is the small town of Sanzhi 三芝. I heard about Sanzhi Legal Protection Center and its community service when Ms. Manghua Chen shared with us about her participation in its work at a prayer meeting 3 years ago. Besides providing legal advice and living support to drug addicts, alcoholics, unwed and single mothers in the Sanzhi neighborhood, Ms. Chen has been working as a missionary to share the Good News with those who come to the Center for help. She knows that only through God's help can they be saved from the plight they are facing. Later, in view of the need for care and support for this group, Ms. Chen sought assistance from the Rev. Huang



Ming-Chen of Taiwan Prison Fellowship. Together they started the Trumpet Fellowship in Sanzhi and began a Bible study gathering every other Friday, twice a month. Two pastors and two evangelists take turns to come all the way from Taipei to share the Gospel with them. I was deeply touched and felt obligated to get involved when I heard Ms. Chen's prayers inviting local Christians to participate in the mission. Since June 2012, I have taken part in the Prison Fellowship's ministry once a week visiting families in need, with Ms. Chen and her co-worker. A few months later I started to join with them in the Trumpet Fellowship gathering twice a month. We

also started a women's self-growth class.

Over the last three years, we have witnessed the great work and love of Almighty God, our Savior, through our efforts to care for these disadvantaged families, the poor and the sick. We have seen the sad become joyful, the weak strengthened, the poor receive abundant blessings. We are grateful to God for His guidance in our mission to make our community more loving and just, for His teaching in making us missionar-

ies in the fields we are in. We need more Christians to join God's mission in the world. I am pleased to say that I always have back-up and support from my church, Advent Church, my Pastor, the Rev. Lennon Chang, and the congregation.

Since I started my daily mission, we have led over 15 people to faith and to baptism. Some have become members of Advent Church.

"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I; send me!'" (Isaiah 6:8)

The harvest is ready. May God help us to follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to care for those in need around us and to lead them to Jesus, our Lord.

GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH, TAIPEI

Rev. Philip Lin Li-Feng 林立峰牧師, English Chaplain: Rev. Herbert Barker

The main news from Good Shepherd Church this summer has been the ongoing installation of the new elevator on the outside of the 5-story main building. This has involved huge amounts of drilling, digging and scaffolding, with plenty of dust everywhere, and workmen coming and going all day, as they seek to build an elevator tower which will have access to all 5 floors of the building. All the classrooms and offices, plus the 5th floor rectory have been affected as windows have been taken out and replaced by doors, behind which is a large hole, where the elevator will be installed. Fortunately at the end of August the scaffolding of the tower was removed, which has improved the outside appearance, and a new cross installed at the top of the tower (see top photo). There is still much work to be done, please pray for us!

Over 3 Sundays in the early summer, after the morning service and lunch, Rev. Philip Lin shared with the congregation about his recent



trip to the Holy Land as part of the diocesan pilgrimage at Chinese New Year. 25 people attended each time.

On Sunday August 2, we were pleased to welcome Bishop Lai for a confirmation service. One young man, Mr. Liou was confirmed, he was baptized as a student in Taipei and has starting worshipping with us at Good Shepherd (see bottom photo).

Our youth group, the Joshua Group, and our group for those of an age who have graduated from college, the Moses Group, have had several summer activities, including meals, fellowship, and summer camps. The Moses Group organized a very rainy day camp on August 29 in Ping-Tung. In contrast, our senior fellowship group enjoyed a sunny outing in late June to Yang-Ming Shan Mountains (see middle photo).



CHRIST CHURCH, CHUNG-LI

Rev. Joseph Ho Ray-En 何睿恩牧師

New people come with
New Hope

‘i English Fellowship’

In Christ Church, there are many people who are good at English. But we know that most people in Taiwan always think that they cannot speak English; even if they get good test scores in English!

The biggest problem is speaking. We feel very shy to speak English with foreigners. So we are very grateful to one of our church members, Mr. Jeff Kuo.

Our church member, Jeff, has come to us from Christ Episcopal Church, Los Altos, California. He shared with us about how he learned English while he was there. When he first arrived in USA from Taiwan, he couldn’t speak any English. Everyone in the house went out to work or school, but because he spoke no English, he stayed home and just watched TV. As time went by, he started to understand what they were saying. He discovered that learning English starts with listening, then speaking. Then he got the point: to learn English is not only studying text books and memorizing vocabulary, but listening and speaking.

So this was the beginning of our “i English fellowship.” Why do we use the name “i English fellowship?” That’s because the pronunciation of the letter ‘i’ in English as ‘ai’ sounds like the Chinese characters for sighing, sadness, and love. Jeff hopes we can change our thoughts and attitudes about learn-



ing English from sighing and sadness to love.

We began to invite people who wanted to learn English or who wanted to try to speak English. Jeff uses the TV series: ‘Person of Interest’. We watch the TV program without Chinese subtitles because we don’t have this program in Taiwan.

We now have 8 people in this fellowship, and we watch Person of Interest every Wednesday night.



Then we talk about the story. If we don’t understand some of the dialogue, then we re-play again and again, trying to guess the meaning. We guess and share and help each other. If we still can’t find the real meaning, Jeff helps us. Sometimes Jeff gives us other tools to learn, like the responses to Person of Interest on the internet, fairytales, Audiobooks, etc. These are free on the inter-

net.



Now, we can watch the program and understand almost all of the meaning in the program. Most of the people coming to this group are not church members, it is a form of outreach into the community. We share with each other, and we invite them to come to church on Sundays, and also to attend our Mid-Autumn Moon Festival BBQ. Thanks be to God, that in every activity there is a chance to share the Gospel or to welcome everyone to come to church.

(photos here show the ‘i English Fellowship’)

ST. LUKE'S CHURCH, HUA-LIEN

Rev. Joseph Wu Ming-Long 吳明龍牧師



Rev. Yu Shen 尉森 (non-stipendiary deacon), pioneer and first ordained clergy of St. Luke's Church, died on May 10, 2015 aged 91. His funeral was on May 21, 2015 in St. Luke's Church. We still remember his motto: "For believers, nothing is impossible." Rev. Yu was an Episcopalian and military medical doctor, born in 1924 in Beijing, Mainland China. He came to Taiwan in 1949, and in 1959 settled in Hualien, retiring from the military in 1968. St. Luke's Episcopal Church started as a group of church members meeting in his home. On July 25, 1979, he was ordained as a permanent deacon by Bishop James Pong.

On Sunday May 31, after our service, we held a church outing to the Hualien Far-Glory Ocean Park (see right photo). A total of 24 adults and children came together to participate. This was a wonderful experience.

There were 18 children who attended our summer camp, from August 17–19, every day from 8:20 am to 4:30 pm (see above photo). The event was conceived and run by the youth of the church, who were in charge of everything, and they did really well! They had 3 full days to prepare and practice beforehand. Their efforts brought laughter to the children and let the group grow closer together. We look forward to more expansion of the youth fellowship this coming year.



TRINITY CHURCH, KEELUNG

Rev. Justin Lin Jun-Ming 林俊明牧師

On July 29, our Evergreen Seniors Group had an outing to Jiufen and Jinguashi. We took 3 cars full of people for our monthly fellowship outing.

On August 15, our youth and young adults fellowship group went on an outing to Yang-Ming Shan mountains, Jinshan Old Street and Sculpture Park.

On Sunday August 9, we celebrated Father's Day with a Thanksgiving Service, with former dean of St. John's Cathedral, Rev. Samuel Lin, preaching and celebrating, followed by a meal together.

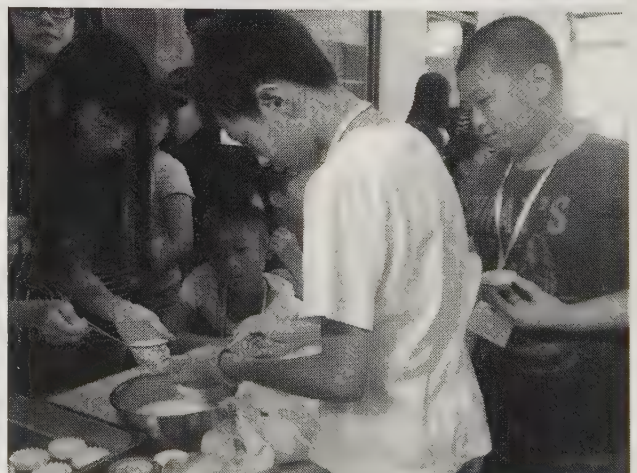
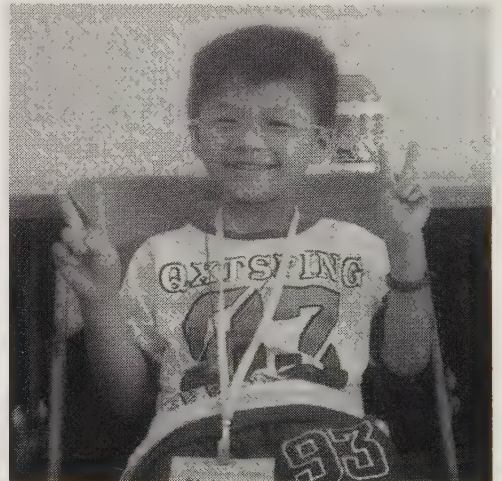
During 3 consecutive weeks in August, we held Summer Learning Camps for local children. August 11-14 was for elementary school aged children, August 18-19 for kindergarten aged children and below, and August 25-27 for teenagers. In total we had about 50 children attending. Each camp took place in the afternoons and the theme for all 3 was

'Love Yourself', with Bible stories, games, prayers, handicrafts and sharing time. Our church members all shared together to make refreshments, cakes, pizza and other homemade delicious foods, helped by the children.

The Learning Camps follow-up takes place on Saturdays in 2 groups, according to age. The theme is 'Love' and finding ways to let love shine out of our lives. Many local children take part in the Saturday Learning Camps.

Our plans for our Sunday School for this new semester are to help the children to get used to using the Book of Common Prayer, following the readings and prayers. Our theme is Old Testament characters. We are developing our own plan of Bible Stories over a 6 year period.

(Photos below show our children's activities).



ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH, KEELUNG

Rev. Julia Lin Shu-Hua 林淑華牧師

Every year, we hold a contest to encourage the children in St. Stephen's Church to learn to recite Bible scripture. This year it was held on June 27, and this year we also had a slightly change; not only did 26 children enter the contest, but for the first time the children were also joined by the seniors from the church, who also recited scripture (see right photo).

In order to help our young people to plan their careers, we invited a young man who has successfully created his own business in Keelung, to give a speech to the young people of our church. This young man's father owns land in a mountainous area, and the family have planted a lot of bamboo trees on the mountain. They taught our young men how to cut the bamboo shoots, and let our young men practice. They surely learned a lot that day.

Mr. Y. H. Chang is currently our drama teacher, and he spent the summer on a short-term mission trip to Nepal. Before his departure, he asked the children



for prayer for him and his ministry. In total 7 children stood up from their seats and came forward to pray for their drama teacher. They had a special time of prayer for him. All of us were deeply touched by this.

Taiwan Father's Day is August 8 (the date 8/8 is pronounced as 'ba-ba' in Chinese) and this year, it was one of the big highlights of our whole year.

Seven adults taught 32 students to prepare and cook dinner dishes for all their parents and grandparents. After a busy time of cooking and preparation, a total of 95 people came to share together to celebrate Father's Day. It was such a wonderful night, we called it "Thanksgiving Night" (see left photo).

Indeed, thanks be to Almighty God for His amazing blessings!



ST. JAMES' CHURCH, TAICHUNG

Rev. Lily Chang Ling-Ling 張玲玲牧師

Rev. Charles Chen Chin-Ti, Rector Emeritus 陳金地榮譽主任牧師



On Sunday May 21, we held a Youth Service Day at St. James Church. Every semester, our younger church members can apply for scholarships from St. James to encourage them in their studies. This time, at the Sunday service, we decided to let the 11 recipients also to do the Bible readings, offerings, prayers, lead the praise and worship, and clean up after the church lunch. It was a great opportunity for the young people to serve in the church service.

During May and June, our cell groups held a daily Bible reading activity, with a decision to read the allocated Bible reading 100% every day. This was a determined effort to keep up with the day's readings and 40 people completed the 100% commitment! It was a great challenge but we are so pleased that so many church members successfully completed the challenge!

From July 6-10, we held a Service Training and Summer Camp at Leading Star Church in Taiping (see bottom photo on page 25). We have held this kind of camp each year, but it has always been held for local children in the St. James' area. This year for the first time, we decided to hold the camp in the area near Leading Star Church. We spent the first 2 days training a group of teenagers how to serve the younger children. The teenagers were from St. James and from other churches in the diocese, including those participating in the diocesan youth summer mission team. Some of them were also friends of our church youth, and not yet Christians.

We were based at Leading Star Church for the whole 5 days. From July 8-10, the teenagers led the summer camp for the local children, based at nearby Guang-Rong Primary School. We had 25 teenagers, 5 adults and 66 elementary school aged children at the camp. It was a wonderful way to show our cooperation with the local elementary school. The children are already looking forward to next year's camp, and for some of the older children, we have already offered them places to come and help on the team.

We celebrated St. James' Day, the 45th anniversary of the church and 19th anniversary as a parish, on Sunday July 26 with a Thanksgiving Service, with Rev. Charles C. T. Chen as preacher. We also had 3 baptisms that day, 2 adults and one child. One the adults is a member of our youth group, brought along by one of his classmates and in his final year of study at Feng-Jia University. The service was followed by a potluck meal.

From August 26-28, we held a youth camp at Xitou, along with youth from Christ Church. 30 teenagers joined in the camp, 10 from Christ Church and 20 from St. James. This time, it was the youth themselves who planned and organized the whole camp, and it was a great success!

THE CHURCH OF THE LEADING STAR, TAIPING

Rev. Sam Cheng Ching-San 鄭慶三牧師



On Sunday September 6, Bishop and Mrs. Lily Lai came to Leading Star Church (see above photo). Bishop Lai celebrated Holy Communion and preached. After the service, the congregation joined Bishop and Lily Lai for tea drinking and sharing a time of fellowship together.

Every Friday morning, Rev. Sam Cheng takes Life Education Classes at Leading Star Kindergarten, and on Wednesdays, the kindergarten teachers have

a devotional time together with Rev Cheng.

From July 6-10, we were pleased to welcome Rev. Lily Chang from St. James' Church, and Rev. Joseph Ho from Christ Church, together with a team of young people to Leading Star Church to lead a Service Training Camp and Children's Summer Camp for the young people and children in the local community (see photo below).



ST. PETER'S CHURCH, CHIA-YI

Rev. Simon Tsou Tsai-Shin 鄒才新牧師



From March to September, we asked a contractor to refurbish our church. Last year, when we were refurbishing the church windows, we found a termite infestation, so we inspected the wooden roof of the church structure and found some parts of the beams were full of termites. As a result, we decided to dismantle the ceiling, and refurbish the beams.

This was originally scheduled to begin after Easter this year, but in April, our kindergarten had an evaluation, and at the end of April, we were scheduled to receive many visitors. So we had to delay demolition work until May, but then we lost time to find a carpenter, because they were so busy. We waited two months, but it was well worth it, because the carpenter team did a great job, and the beams have a completely new look. Our renovation works continue until the end of September (see top photos above). Please pray for us.



During the summer, we held a summer camp in the church for youth and elementary school aged children, from July 6-10. For the first two days, we trained the youth team, on how to lead children, tell stories, run games and lead children in singing songs. The training process was very interesting but also very hard. We then held a 3

-day summer camp for elementary school aged children from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm each day. In total, we had 31 youth and 56 children who came (see bottom photo). Thanks be to God, it was a wonderful experience!



This year we have two female members of our youth

group who will move onto university. On Sunday August 30, during the morning service, we prayed and blessed them (see middle photo above), and our Youth Fellowship sang a special song for them, wishing them well, and a good start to their college life.

GRACE CHURCH, TAINAN

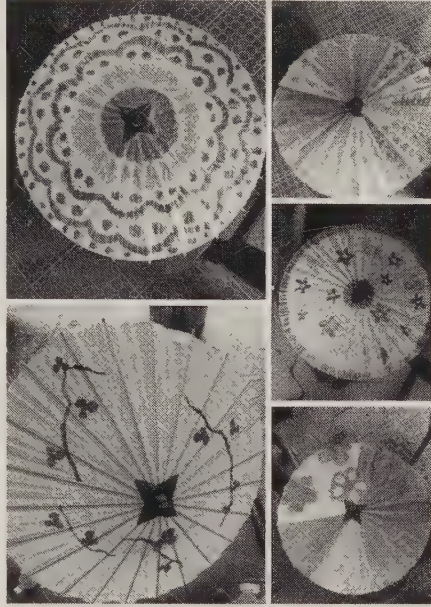
Rev. Keith Lee Jen-Cheng 李鎮丞牧師

Ms. Sung-jien Liao, daughter of Rev. Samuel Liao, has talents in coffee and cake making. We invited her to display her certificated specialty, to teach us the knowledge of coffee, and how to make a special cup of coffee. Also we invited her to make delicious cakes as gifts or celebrations at special events, such as Mother's Day, Father's Day, Mid-Autumn Festival, etc. Thanks to her for her kindness and hard work.

Mrs. Lily Lai was unfortunately not able to accompany Bishop Lai to attend the General Convention, due to her father's illness, death and funeral. Mr. Shu-shen Lin passed away in Tainan on June 18 after a long illness, aged 90. The funeral was held on June 27. May Mr. Lin's soul be accepted by our Heavenly God.

Grace Church held a children's summer camp together with St. Mark's Church and St. Andrew's mission at Mei-nung Leisure Farm, Kaohsiung County from July 20-21.

We had 24 children and 11 brothers and sisters coming from these 3 places to participate. Before the camp began, it had been raining for 3 full days, but after we arrived at the farm, the rain stopped. The weather was so nice and cool for us to do the activities, we didn't even need any air conditioning on the first



day. And the next day it became sunny. The whole camp was full of God's grace and every child had a good time, they are all looking forward to having the next camp next year. The top 2 photos were taken at the camp.

Grace Church Kindergarten's 34th graduation ceremony was held on July 25, and we had 35 children graduate from the kindergarten, entering their new step with God's and our blessings. May God lead and guide their future prospects.

On Sunday August 2, Rev. Michael Liou and his family came to worship with us. The group photo taken that day is shown below.



Dengue fever is an increasingly serious problem during these months in the Tainan area, reaching record levels. There have been over 10,000 cases this summer in Taiwan, and 90% of them have been in the Tainan area. Please pray for the government and residents, may we have wisdom to solve the problem, that the epidemic could be controlled and conquered. In order

to prevent dengue fever, brothers and sisters of Grace Church decided to delay the annual Mid-Autumn activity and it may be celebrated with our Christmas celebration at the end of this year.



ST. ANDREW'S KINDERGARTEN, JIE-DING

Rev. Cheng Chen-Chang 鄭成章牧師



One of the highlights of the summer was the overnight trip we made from July 20-21 to Mei-nung Leisure Farm, Kaohsiung County. Mei-nung is a Hakka area and famous for preserving traditional Hakka crafts, customs and foods,

The camp was organized as a summer camp for the elementary school aged children of Grace Church, St. Mark's Church and the after-school classes of St. Andrew's Kindergarten (see photos here). We also invited some of the church teenagers to come along as helpers. 24 elementary school children participated in the camp, plus the 2 clergy, Rev. Cheng Chen-Chang and Rev. Keith Lee, and along with church members and teenagers, bringing the total to 37 people. The farm had a planned program which involved learning about nature, making a traditional drink, painting traditional Mei-nung paper umbrellas, and games and activities. We also had our own program of sharing

together.

Thirty children graduated this past summer from St. Andrew's Kindergarten, and we are delighted that the new intake of students into the kindergarten this September means that our total number of children continues to be about 100. Please pray for us!



ST. MARK'S CHURCH, PING-TUNG

Rev. Cheng Chen-Chang 鄭成章牧師



On May 30, we organized an end-of term outing for our weekend children's Joy Camp to visit the Yang-Ming Museum of Marine Exploration in Kaohsiung. The museum is shaped like an ocean liner, and the children thought it was great fun! 8 children and 7 adults came along. We also visited Chi-Jin Presbyterian Church, located at the port area. The photos here were taken on that day.

We were pleased to welcome the daughter of one of our church members to give a talk to us about her work in the film industry, as she shared all about the work that goes into making a movie and the team work involved.

In July, St. Mark's Church took part in the summer camp to Mei-nung Leisure Farm, along with St. Andrew's Kindergarten and Grace Church (see photos under St. Andrew's Kindergarten section).

On Sunday August 8, Father's Day in Taiwan, it was wonderful to welcome Bishop and Mrs. Lily Lai to our morning service. That was the same weekend as Typhoon Soudelor, but fortunately Ping-Tung was not too badly affected, and the High-Speed Rail was opened in time for Bishop and Lily



Lai to travel south from Taipei on Sunday morning. Bishop Lai celebrated Holy Communion and preached. After the service, he shared with us his egg plant dish which he taught us how to make, delicious!

We do not have a specialist organist, so we are pleased to welcome Mr. Stoney Wu Jia-Guei, who was assigned to All Saints Church for the last 3 months, and is now assigned to St. Timothy's Church. Stoney comes to St. Mark's Church on the third Sunday of each month to play the organ for us during the morning service.

ALL SAINTS CHURCH, KANG-SHAN

Rev. Leo Tzeng Wen-Bin 曾文斌牧師



We were very pleased to welcome Mr. Stoney Wu Jia-Guei and his wife and daughter to All Saints for 3 months from July to August to experience life in the parish and to test his call to the priesthood as an



‘aspirant’. Each day, Tuesday to Friday, he and the Rev. Leo Tzeng had a daily service together and sharing time. On Sundays he helped in the service as an acolyte and while Rev. Leo Tzeng was away in the USA as a delegate for the General Convention, he helped to take care of the parish. He also took part in all the church and deanery activities. At their final service on August 30, we took a church photo together, shown at the top of the page.

On Sunday July 12, we had 2 baptisms during the Sunday service, one small baby and one older lady, Mrs. Luo (see left photo). They are both relatives of our church members. Mrs. Luo’s husband had been a lifelong church member, he died 2 years ago. All his family had been church members, but it was not until Mrs. Luo was involved in a car accident in the last few months that she felt challenged, and made the decision to be baptized.

After Rev. Leo Tzeng’s return from the General Convention, we started our new semester of Adult Sunday School classes. This time we are studying ‘Introduction to the Apocrypha’, and the course will last 4 months.

Our children’s summer camp was a great success, held on 3 afternoons from July 28-30, on the theme of the Exodus from Egypt. 40 children came along, helped by 10 adults (see photo below).



ST. TIMOTHY'S CHURCH, KAOHSIUNG

Rev. Richard Lee Ray-Chiang 李瑞強牧師

In early July, St. Timothy's Church, in cooperation with the diocesan youth ministry team, organized a Service Learning Camp. We had 10-15 young people serving as co-workers and nearly 30 children who joined together for the camp. The topic this year was to understand our local area of Kaohsiung. Through sharing time and talks, we learned about Kaohsiung, then we went out of the church to the streets to do actual field visits. This experience gave the children a great memory. After the camp finished, several teenagers decided they were willing to participate in the church youth fellowship. Currently we have the youth fellowship on Saturday nights, and we are looking forward to the future, with more young people coming into the church.

Because we were few in number, we have decided to end the Mandarin Worship Service which was being held early on Sunday mornings, and concentrate on the main Taiwanese Worship Service. Bible Classes continue in both languages, and Rev. Richard Lee also offers other training classes. He has opened an Anglican Worship course for those helping to lead worship. More recently we held a course

on 'How to Read the Bible' to help our church members to learn different ways to research the Bible. In September we also started to use the daily office of the Book of Common Prayer, and we hope church members can read the word of God every-day, and be encouraged in their faith.

Starting in August, Rev. Richard Lee's wife, Belinda now leads a mother's growth group every Thursday for young mothers and their children (see photo below). Through sharing their experiences, they can support each other. We expect more growth in faith, and for it to become a gospel-based group. The special characteristic is that mothers come with their young children, and while the mothers gather, Belinda's own children play together and lead the children.

We also welcome Mr. Stoney Wu and his family to St. Timothy's Church for this semester to continue discernment about his call to full-time ministry.



ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, KAOHSIUNG.

Rev. Philip Ho Jeng-Long 何政隆牧師

On Sunday July 5, 3 people were baptized at St. Paul's Church, Ms. Liu Kin-Ping, and 2 small brothers (see right photo). In between the sermon and baptism, 40 members of the Shining Eagle Youth Group sang "I can do everything through Christ", to praise the Lord.



we hope to keep the close connection with them even though they may be far away. We celebrated on July 25 with a happy party (see photo below) for all those moving up a new level in education, all those starting at new schools in September. These Shining Eagles are growing up and growing more mature in

From July 18-23, we held a New Shining Eagle College Fellowship Camp. Since the summer of 2013, over 100 young students have come to join with us in the Summer Shining Eagle Camps to serve, and to share the Gospel with elementary school students. At the same time, these students have themselves heard the Gospel. Most of them have made the decision to accept Jesus as their savior and to be His disciple. The purpose of the Shining Eagle Camp is designed to be two camps at the same time, both groups growing in spirit, character, as well as in physical body. Now the first youths who started for the first time in the summer of 2013 are this year setting off to study at university, and

many ways, such as having more time to join in the fellowship, more time to pray, more time to read the Bible, more time to take care of each other, and more time to connect among themselves via "Line groups".

Since the summer of 2011, Rev. Philip Ho has held a special camp at the end of the summer for students to prepare to the new school year, to help them to focus on their new semester classes and to get skills to act as a better students, to not waste time and have better scores. The hands of these young people are spread to be wings as they fly into



the sky. On August 24, we held our 5th such “Flying Shining Eagle Camp”.

The day after finishing the 5th “Flying Shining Eagle Camp”, the older “eagles” who were happy to cycle, rode their bikes to visit a small island near Kaohsiung City. With the grace given from our dear Lord, we had many clouds to be our shade to protect these “eagles” from the harm of the hot sun. We visited an old church that was built in 1865 on the seashore of this island. That inspired all the “eagles” that they might become missionaries some day in the future by the calling from our dear Lord.

On August 28, 16 members of St. Paul’s Church, members of the “Goodness People College” and two from St. James’ Church took part in a very special tour which was full of the great mercy from our dear Lord. We went to Guanshan in Taitung County, on the east coast (see photo below). A “Cycling trip at Guanshan” is one of the different tour plans of “Cruise-Style Trains” designed by Taiwan Railways Company. The tickets can only be booked via the internet, and they are very much in demand, so we were very blessed to be able to get 16 tickets that morning.

That whole day the sky over Taiwan was covered by much cloud and rain, but there came a miracle for us, because from the early morning when we got on the train till we finished the “Cycling trip at Guanshan” we had no rain to interrupt us! We had lovely cloudy weather, cool and perfumed flower air, beautiful white cotton clouds climbing on the

mountains, beautiful grasses, beautiful buffalos eating beside the flowing stream beneath the bridge and happy people singing songs to praise the Lord on the bridge over a green lake.

Another miracle happened while we were coming back to Kaohsiung. There was a stop at a station to let travelers get off the train and to visit a small white church in the village beside the railway. Many travelers went in front of the church to take pictures. Our group sang hymns to praise the Lord in front of the church and took pictures too. After we finished the first hymn, an elder of the small white church came to open the door to let travelers to visit inside. We went into the church and stood before the altar of the church to sing hymns to praise the Lord again. Meanwhile the other travelers went inside to take photos. Later, a train volunteer asked me: “Excuse me Pastor, did you make earlier arrangements with that elder to let you in the church?” “No,” I replied. “I didn’t even know we would be visiting this church.” The volunteer replied, “We have brought many visitors to this church, but the door is always shut, there is never anyone here to welcome us in!” Isn’t this a special mercy from our dear Lord?

When the “Cruise-Style Train” train arrived back near Kaohsiung, it started to rain. What a sweet trip we had had, with no rain until we were almost home, thanks to our dear Lord! Hallelujah!



News from our Companion Diocese of Osaka:
Rev. Akira Peter Iwaki, Dean at the Kawaguchi Christ Church Cathedral,
Osaka Diocese NSKK
The Diocese of Osaka under the new Bishop, Andrew Iso

The Diocese of Osaka started a new step forward under Rt. Revd. Andrew Haruhisa Iso, who was consecrated on April 18. The bishop has been visiting the congregations in the diocese to listen to the voices of the clergy and lay people.

Many Japanese Christians, including Episcopalians, are very concerned about the policy and attitude of

the Japanese government in making the Diet Houses pass the "Security-Related" bills to enable Japan to join military operations together with the "allied powers". The clergy and lay people issued a statement to protest the unilateral passing of the bills at the Lower Houses by the ruling parties. The statement is as follows:

An Emergency Statement
Repeal Approval of Security Bills in the Lower House

Addressed to:

Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan

Mr. Tadamori Oshima, Chairperson, the House of Representatives, Japan

Mr. Masaaki Yamazaki, Chairperson, the House of Councilors, Japan

Issued by:

Clerics in protest against the current security bills,

The Osaka and Kyoto Dioceses, Anglican-Episcopal Church in Japan

Date: July 17th, 2015

Yearning to be faithful to the teachings of our Lord, Jesus Christ, many clerics of the Osaka and Kyoto Dioceses, and Anglican-Episcopal Church in Japan are fiercely protesting against the "International Peace-keeping Bill" and "The Peace and National Security Bill," which was bulldozed by the Special Committee and Plenary Assembly of the House of Representatives in its current session. We hereby demand for the immediate withdrawal and abolishment of those two bills.

Furthermore, it will prove destructive to Japan's resolve to remain a peaceful nation- a long-standing objective the country has sought to accomplish since the end of World War II. If such security legislations are enacted, it will swiftly overturn the pacifist convictions. Soon, war can be "anywhere," "anytime," and "endless." Prime Minister Abe himself has also acknowledged that the public's understanding of the security bills is lacking. Under such circumstances, impetuously bulldozing the bills without a clear consensus would lead to the collapse and breakdown of law and democracy granted by the Japanese Constitution.

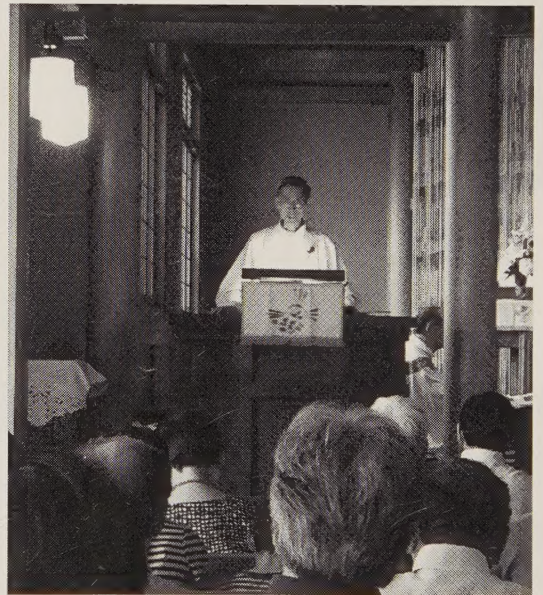
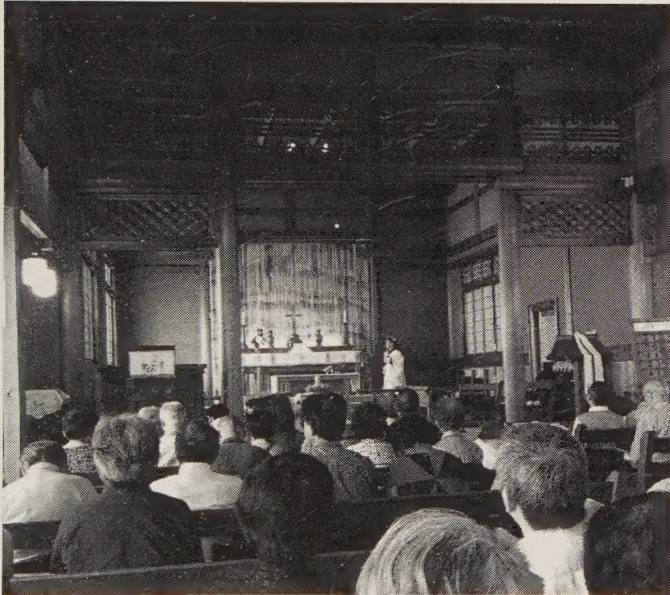
Many Japanese and those in the international community are well aware that Mr. Abe's Cabinet is leading the country down a very perilous path as they consider this a direct infringement of rights bestowed by the Constitution. The security bills are regarded by a majority of scholars as "unconstitutional". Its Article 9 clearly states, "--- the Japanese people forever renounce --- the threat or use of force," "--- land, sea, and air forces, as well as other potential of warfare , will never be maintained," and "The right of belligerency of

the state will not be recognized.” This Constitution stands upon the nation’s repentance of the many lives that were sacrificed, including the agonies it inflicted upon Asia and the rest of the world. It seems clear that the current administration is blatantly disregarding the people’s yearning for peace. In essence, the bills would make Japan’s direct involvement in wars started by its “ally,” namely the United States of America to be legitimate. On the contrary, the Prime Minister has assured the people saying, “Those bills would never embroil Japan in a war.” However those are nothing but hollow words, evident through his disdain of the reality of war.

We intend to be “peacemakers,” blessed by Jesus Christ. Hence we are firmly opposed to the two bills and protest against the reckless approval by members of the Lower House which is essentially an act of violence against democracy.

Clerics in protest, Osaka Diocese, Anglican-Episcopal Church in Japan

Service of Peace, Kawaguchi Christ Church Cathedral, Osaka



As an action to express the yearnings for peace, the Dioceses of Osaka and Kyoto jointly called a Service of Peace at Nara Christ Church (Anglican) on August 15. More than 240 people joined in the service to pray for peace in Asia and the world. Recently Nara Christ Church was designated as an Important Cultural Property by the Agency for Cultural Affairs since it is a unique Japanese-style church.

The photos were taken at the Peace Service at Nara Christ Church.



TAIWAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH

臺灣聖公會通訊

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